

# COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation  
January 17, 2008

## COMPTON CREEK ENHANCEMENT FEASIBILITY REPORT - AUGMENTATION

File No. 06-110-02  
Project Manager: David Hayes

**RECOMMENDED ACTION:** Authorization to disburse an amount not to exceed twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000) to augment a previous Conservancy authorization to the San Gabriel & Los Angeles Rivers Watershed Council to complete a technical design report on the feasibility of habitat enhancements and trail access along Compton Creek in Los Angeles County.

**LOCATION:** The City of Compton and in unincorporated Los Angeles County (Exhibit 1).

**PROGRAM CATEGORY:** Public Access and Resource Enhancement

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### **EXHIBITS**

Exhibit 1: [Project Location](#)

Exhibit 2: [Project Area](#)

Exhibit 3: [May 24, 2007 Staff Recommendation](#)

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### **RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:**

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Sections 31111, 31251-31270 and 31400-09 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed twenty-eight thousand dollars (\$28,000) to augment a previous Conservancy authorization to the San Gabriel & Los Angeles Rivers Watershed Council (Council) to complete a technical design report focusing on the feasibility of habitat enhancement and trail access improvement projects along a 2.8 mile section of Compton Creek in Los Angeles County. Prior to the disbursement of any additional funds, the Council shall submit for review and written approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a revised work plan, budget and project schedule.

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with the purposes set forth in Chapters 6 and 9 of Division 21 of the California Public Code (Sections 31251-70 and 31400-09) and with the authority of the Conservancy under Public Resources Code Section 31111 to award grants to non-profit organizations for these purposes.
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on September 20, 2007.
3. The Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code, whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”

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### **PROJECT SUMMARY:**

The proposed project would increase a previous Conservancy authorization to the Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council (Exhibit 3) to provide an additional twenty eight thousand dollars (\$28,000) to complete a technical design report focusing on the feasibility of habitat enhancement and trail access improvement projects in a 2.8 mile section of Compton Creek in Los Angeles County. The proposed augmentation is consistent with the Conservancy’s initial authorization to fund the Compton Creek enhancement feasibility report on May 24, 2007.

In May 2007, the Conservancy authorized a grant of \$125,000 to the Los Angeles & San Gabriel Rivers Watershed Council to complete data collection, preliminary engineering, and cost and feasibility analysis for implementation of habitat enhancement and trail access improvement projects along Compton Creek in Los Angeles County. The Compton Creek is a major tributary of the Los Angeles River, and the watershed drains a highly urbanized, approximately 42 square mile area. The Council will produce a feasibility report focusing on the 2.8-mile earthen-bottom reach of the Compton Creek channel, which is identified in the Compton Creek Watershed Plan as a priority area for habitat enhancement activities.

The proposed augmentation will provide needed funding to hold community workshops, briefings to governmental officials, and coordination with local public agencies to gain additional technical information to determine which enhancement scenarios are feasible. When a detailed scope of work was completed for this project, it became clear that more extensive community participation and inter-agency coordination would be needed in order for the report to be useful to partners in the watershed as a tool for future project planning purposes. Additional outreach is needed in order to achieve broad-base community awareness and agency support for the habitat enhancement scenarios. Additionally, the report will address complex issues of balancing flood protection and habitat enhancement. Coordination with local public agencies is necessary to provide a detailed and technical analysis for potential habitat enhancement projects and determine project feasibility in relation to Los Angeles County flood protection requirements. During the site analysis phase of the project, frequent interagency coordination will be needed to ensure that partners such as the; Los Angeles County, U.S. Army CORPS of Engineers, Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, City of Compton, State Regional Water Quality Control Board, Caldrons and others, have adequate review and comment opportunities.

**PROJECT FINANCING:**

*This authorization*

Coastal Conservancy	\$28,000
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*Previous authorization*

Coastal Conservancy	125,000
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<u>Los Angeles County (in-kind services)</u>	<u>70,000</u>
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<b>Total Project Cost</b>	<b>\$223,000</b>
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The Conservancy's contribution to this project is expected to come from the FY 2005 appropriation from the Water Security, Clean Drinking Water Coastal Beach Protection Fund of 2002 (Proposition 50), which allocated funds to the Conservancy for 'the purposes of protecting coastal watersheds, including, but not limited to . . . associated planning, permitting, and administrative costs" (codified at Water Code 79570), consistent with our enabling legislation. The proposed project involves critical analysis/planning work necessary to identify specific projects and strategies that will be used to protect and restore coastal watershed resources.

The proposed project is part of a comprehensive effort to protect and restore the aquatic and riparian habitats of Compton Creek and develop a trail network for public access that is compatible with habitat goals. The feasibility report will enable future implementation of habitat enhancement and trail access scenarios.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:**

See May 24, 2007 Staff Recommendation (Exhibit 3) regarding the project's consistency with the Conservancy's enabling legislation.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S 2007  
STRATEGIC PLAN GOAL(S) & OBJECTIVE(S):**

The project remains consistent with the **Goals and Objectives** of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, last updated in September, 2007, as follows:

Consistent with **Goal 6 Objective A**, of the Conservancy's Strategic Plan, the project will design plans for increasing resource enhancement, including stream and habitat corridors and promoting public recreation.

Consistent with **Goal 6, Objective B**, the proposed authorizations will lead to the development of projects that will improve water quality that will benefit the Compton Creek Watershed and the Los Angeles River and Los Angeles Harbor/San Pedro Bay areas.

**CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S  
PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:**

As discussed in the May 24, 2007 Staff Recommendation, the project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines.

**CONSISTENCY WITH LOCAL WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN/  
STATE WATER QUALITY CONTROL PLAN:**

As discussed in the Project Summary and the May 24, 2007 Staff Recommendation, the proposed project is consistent with and helps achieve objectives in the Compton Creek Watershed Management Plan and Compton Creek Watershed Plan Implementation Strategy.

**COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:**

The proposed augmentation by this authorization does not alter the nature of the project and does not affect the conclusions reached in the May 24, 2007 Staff Recommendation (Exhibit 3) regarding its compliance with the California Environmental Protection Act ("CEQA"). This project and the proposed augmentation is statutorily exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under 14 California Code of Regulations Section 15262 because it involves only feasibility and planning studies for possible future actions and will not have a legally binding effect on later activities.